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**July to December 1988
1988-89 HOUSEHOLD
EXPENDITURE SURVEY
AUSTRALIA**

PRELIMINARY

Catalogue No. 6528.0

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**1988-89 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY
AUSTRALIA**

**(JULY TO DECEMBER 1988)
PRELIMINARY**

**IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician**

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PREFACE

This publication presents preliminary results based on the first six months data collected in the 1988-89 Household Expenditure Survey (HES). It will be followed in 1990 by the publication of results based on the full 12 months data. Details of the data dissemination program for this survey are contained in *1988-89 Household Expenditure Survey, Australia, Information Paper (6527.0)* which is being released with this publication.

The 1988-89 HES is the fourth in a series of such surveys. Previous surveys were conducted in 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1984.

Special thanks are extended to the sample of households whose co-operation and high degree of response was vital to the success of the survey.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Belconnen A.C.T. 2616
September 1989

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

MAIN FEATURES

In 1988-89 Australian households spent on average \$507 per week on commodities and services. Food, transport, and housing costs were the major expenditure areas, totalling nearly half (47.9 per cent) of expenditure on all commodities and services.

The survey showed significant variations in household expenditure from the lowest income households to the highest.

For example, households in the lowest ten per cent of households (when ranked according to income) spent 21.8 per cent of their income on food and non-alcoholic beverages and 16.4 per cent on current housing costs. This compared to 15.8 per cent and 11.4 per cent respectively for the highest ten per cent of households. On the other hand, the lowest income group spent 10.7 per cent of their income on transport and 10.4 per cent on recreation, compared to 15.5 per cent and 14.7 per cent respectively for the highest income group.

The lowest ten per cent income group comprised mainly single persons on government pensions and benefits. The highest income group had the highest average number of people in the household (3.6) and the highest average number of earners in the household (2.4).

Presented below is a graphic representation of average weekly household expenditure on broad groups of commodities and services for Australian households.

Average Weekly Household Expenditure on Commodities and Services, Australia, 1988-89

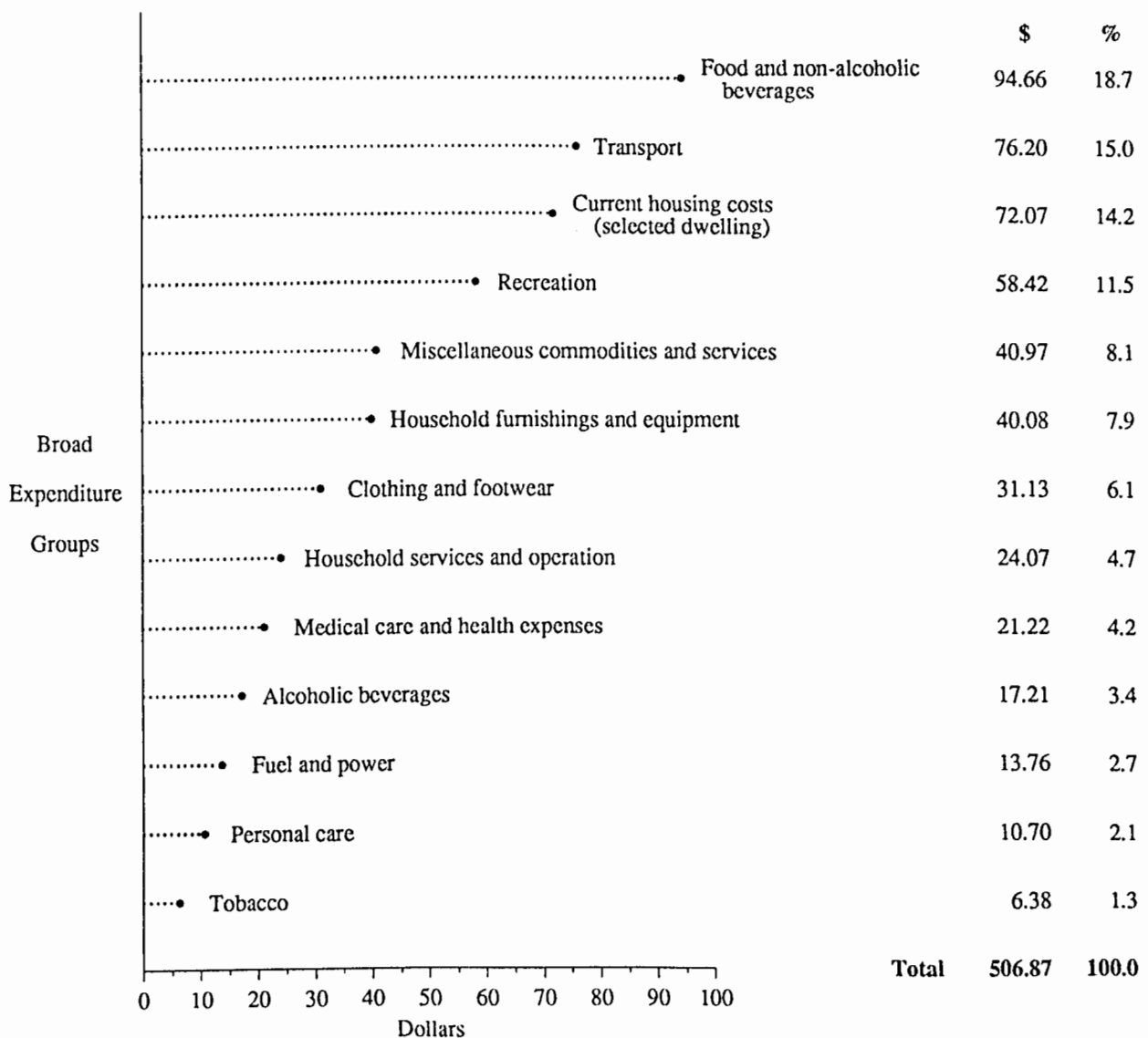


TABLE 1: HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME DECILE GROUP, AUSTRALIA(a)

TABLE 1: HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME DECILE												All House- holds
Broad Expenditure Group(b)	Gross Income Decile											
	Lowest 10%	Second decile	Third decile	Fourth decile	Fifth decile	Sixth decile	Seventh decile	Eighth decile	Ninth decile	Highest 10%		
Average Weekly Household Expenditure \$(c)												
Commodity or Service												
Current housing costs (selected dwelling)	35.20	37.89	41.40	57.90	62.67	77.01	87.30	92.76	127.06	110.44	72.07	
Fuel and power	8.00	10.50	11.09	12.31	13.68	14.34	15.78	16.10	16.19	20.50	13.76	
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	46.80	61.29	66.08	84.06	89.82	99.82	112.07	115.91	126.45	152.85	94.66	
Alcoholic beverages	6.44	8.44	10.38	14.62	14.07	14.31	18.67	24.36	26.92	36.74	17.21	
Tobacco	3.76	4.28	5.50	7.55	6.65	5.92	7.65	8.15	7.27	7.59	6.38	
Clothing and footwear	11.37	11.54	18.86	21.12	27.88	30.57	38.99	37.40	49.83	67.80	31.13	
Household furnishings and equipment	16.38	19.00	20.85	27.39	28.66	36.55	39.87	54.16	74.28	90.07	40.08	
Household services and operation	14.38	15.29	16.80	20.00	21.97	25.93	28.88	31.55	28.88	39.38	24.07	
Medical care and health expenses	8.94	9.15	16.06	18.20	18.41	23.59	24.41	27.40	30.33	37.80	21.22	
Transport	22.86	34.28	45.26	50.66	76.31	78.62	88.59	115.14	112.70	150.23	76.20	
Recreation	22.28	25.47	32.39	27.36	58.95	40.18	66.70	83.48	97.58	141.68	58.42	
Personal care	5.08	5.88	6.98	9.56	8.28	11.08	12.29	12.20	16.01	20.67	10.70	
Miscellaneous commodities and services	13.03	12.01	16.31	37.39	29.41	40.93	57.70	52.21	65.70	91.12	40.97	
Total commodity and service expenditure	214.51	255.02	307.96	388.11	456.76	498.87	598.90	670.82	779.21	966.89	506.87	
Selected other payments												
Income tax	13.51	12.07	26.48	61.02	95.22	125.61	146.66	190.19	232.91	363.18	123.63	
Mortgage payment-principal (selected dwelling)	1.13	1.97	2.80	5.49	8.12	8.75	14.87	15.97	13.97	17.93	8.88	
Other capital housing costs	25.73	22.04	2.10	38.82	26.11	10.44	13.05	20.69	74.40	80.19	31.07	
Superannuation and life insurance	0.77	1.62	3.51	8.78	13.03	18.00	20.08	26.33	30.16	39.78	15.86	

(a) The decile groups in this table are 10 per cent groupings of the estimated population when households are ranked in ascending order according to each household's total gross weekly income. (b) Details of the component expenditure items which comprise broad expenditure groups are given in Appendix 1 of the 1988/89 HES Information Paper (6527.0). (c) The average obtained when the total estimated expenditure for a particular broad expenditure group is divided by the estimated number of households within the scope of the survey in the relevant decile group

TABLE 1: HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME DECILE GROUP, AUSTRALIA(a) —continued

Household Characteristics	Gross Income Decile										All Households
	Lowest 10%	Second decile	Third decile	Fourth decile	Fifth decile	Sixth decile	Seventh decile	Eighth decile	Ninth decile	Highest 10%	
Upper boundary of income decile group (\$)	157	233	327	434	549	674	799	952	1180
Average weekly household income \$(b)	115.26	199.85	276.48	382.46	491.76	609.27	732.52	878.02	1054.08	1621.59	621.52
Proportion (%) of total income being:											
Wages and salaries	4.3	7.6	17.6	64.8	73.8	75.6	78.9	84.4	84.7	72.9	71.1
Own business	1.3	2.9	8.2	8.7	7.6	11.4	10.3	7.7	7.5	16.1	9.9
Government pensions and benefits	80.7	73.8	50.3	15.7	8.7	6.5	3.6	3.3	1.8	1.4	10.1
Other	13.6	15.7	23.9	10.8	9.8	6.5	7.2	4.5	6.0	9.7	8.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average age of reference person	60	56	55	44	43	41	41	41	41	44	47
Average number of persons in the household:											
Under 18 years	0.19	0.54	0.51	0.91	1.03	1.22	1.13	0.99	1.02	0.92	0.84
18 to 64 years	0.66	0.89	1.12	1.58	1.72	1.88	2.06	2.21	2.26	2.55	1.68
65 years and over	0.53	0.67	0.68	0.21	0.15	0.09	0.09	0.07	0.10	0.13	0.28
Total	1.38	2.10	2.31	2.70	2.90	3.19	3.28	3.26	3.38	3.61	2.80
Proportion (%) of households with nature of housing occupancy being:											
Owned outright	61.8	55.0	55.1	38.2	37.7	42.1	38.9	29.9	38.3	41.7	44.2
Being bought	5.8	10.6	15.2	25.3	31.6	36.6	44.1	46.9	42.2	38.1	29.2
Renting government	10.3	15.4	10.5	5.9	4.3	3.2	2.2	2.9	2.1	1.9	6.0
Renting private	16.7	15.4	15.2	27.1	22.6	16.4	14.2	19.8	15.3	18.0	18.0
Occupied rent free	5.3	3.6	4.0	3.6	3.8	1.6	0.6	0.5	2.1	0.2	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average number of earners in household	0.2	0.2	0.4	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.4	1.3
Proportion (%) of households with family composition of the household being:											
Married couple:											
- only	8.1	41.0	40.3	23.9	12.8	17.3	21.8	21.2	28.2	15.8	23.1
- with dependent children only	6.2	9.5	14.7	30.3	35.7	43.9	40.0	36.3	32.8	31.0	27.9
- other(c)	0.4	0.9	4.2	5.9	11.0	7.9	16.2	21.1	22.4	34.1	12.1
Single parent one family household only	3.4	22.5	10.2	10.0	4.5	7.5	3.5	2.6	0.6	0.1	6.6
Single person household	78.8	22.5	16.8	23.6	24.2	12.0	7.9	5.3	2.4	2.8	20.0
Other(d)	3.0	3.6	13.9	6.4	11.8	11.4	10.4	13.4	13.7	16.2	10.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of households in sample	347	354	353	355	352	354	354	354	353	354	3537
Estimated total number in population ('000)											
Households	527.2	513.9	539.8	532.2	506.0	543.9	490.0	456.3	506.5	497.2	5,125.4
Persons	728.2	1,078.9	1,245.7	1,436.0	1,467.6	1,734.3	1,608.2	1,487.4	1,710.6	1,793.4	14,332.7

(a) The decile groups in this table are 10 per cent groupings of the estimated population when households are ranked in ascending order according to each household's total gross weekly income of all household members. (b) Household income is the sum of the gross weekly income of all household members. (c) Includes married couple family households where a combination of dependent and non-dependent children are present. (d) Includes married couple and single parent families living in multiple family households.

TABLE 2: HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE BY STATES AND TERRITORIES

Broad Expenditure Group(a)	State or Territory								
	N S W	Vic.	Qld	S A	W A	Tas.	N T	A C T	Australia
Average Weekly Household Expenditure (\$)(b)									
Commodity or Service									
Current housing costs (selected dwelling)									
Fuel and power	85.32	65.80	61.56	56.23	78.22	51.51	85.78	89.28	72.07
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	12.34	16.95	11.06	13.92	14.21	14.54	11.68	18.49	13.76
Alcoholic beverages	96.58	100.22	86.93	83.92	98.14	89.06	91.31	104.20	94.66
Tobacco	16.85	15.90	19.14	16.81	19.09	11.61	33.33	19.71	17.21
Clothing and footwear	6.29	6.94	4.89	6.47	7.29	6.60	8.46	7.95	6.38
Household furnishings and equipment	34.41	32.71	26.41	25.37	32.20	23.20	23.41	32.73	31.13
Household services and operation	45.68	47.34	26.04	30.87	40.50	28.09	25.92	36.80	40.08
Medical care and health expenses	24.86	24.95	22.10	20.06	26.42	21.73	28.47	26.98	24.07
Transport	21.89	22.32	19.70	20.11	20.78	19.81	15.06	19.97	21.22
Recreation	76.57	79.86	72.60	72.11	76.21	63.64	73.03	98.92	76.20
Personal care	61.81	63.76	44.75	60.83	55.28	47.96	51.24	73.76	58.42
Miscellaneous commodities and services	11.71	10.75	8.93	9.52	12.26	8.43	9.15	9.65	10.70
	38.03	46.66	34.76	33.99	57.62	34.35	32.21	37.92	40.97
Total commodity and service expenditure	532.34	534.15	438.88	450.20	538.22	420.52	489.03	576.34	506.87
Selected other payments									
Income tax									
Mortgage payment-principal (selected dwelling)	122.65	136.26	115.15	101.49	129.99	104.10	128.24	167.74	123.63
Other capital housing costs	9.47	8.33	8.63	5.35	11.42	8.82	11.46	12.87	8.88
Superannuation and life insurance	58.38	19.78	11.01	17.55	25.55	8.05	-0.76	6.37	31.07
	14.20	16.89	14.89	16.32	16.96	20.58	18.92	26.45	15.86

(a) Details of the component expenditure items which comprise broad expenditure groups are given in Appendix 1 of the 1988-89 HES Information Paper (6527.0). (b) The average obtained when the total estimated expenditure for a particular broad expenditure group is divided by the estimated number of households within the scope of the survey.

TABLE 2: HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE BY STATES AND TERRITORIES—continued

Household Characteristics	State or Territory								
	N S W	Vic.	Qld	S A	W A	Tas.	N T	A C T	Australia
Average weekly household income \$(a)	611.70	673.03	588.66	542.59	655.40	548.96	668.32	764.72	621.52
Proportion (%) of total income being:									
Wages and salaries	70.6	72.0	69.5	72.7	70.1	67.3	76.7	83.3	71.1
Own business	10.2	10.7	9.3	5.1	12.8	8.4	10.6	4.3	9.9
Government pensions and benefits	10.8	8.2	11.4	12.7	9.6	12.4	7.4	4.4	10.1
Other	8.4	9.1	9.8	9.4	7.5	11.9	5.4	8.0	8.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average age of reference person	47	48	47	47	44	49	42	42	47
Average number of persons in the household:									
Under 18 years	0.87	0.86	0.80	0.66	1.01	0.75	0.78	0.89	0.84
18 to 64 years	1.64	1.72	1.67	1.62	1.75	1.60	1.58	1.89	1.68
65 years and over	0.30	0.27	0.27	0.29	0.21	0.34	0.11	0.11	0.28
Total	2.82	2.85	2.73	2.57	2.97	2.68	2.47	2.89	2.80
Proportion (%) of households with nature of housing occupancy being:									
Owned outright	42.8	49.0	47.4	44.1	36.3	48.0	18.9	18.0	44.2
Being bought	27.9	29.8	27.4	27.6	34.8	30.1	23.8	43.4	29.2
Renting government	5.1	4.5	2.7	11.0	9.1	6.3	26.0	21.3	6.0
Renting private	21.4	14.6	20.3	15.1	15.7	11.4	26.0	16.0	18.0
Occupied rent free	2.7	2.2	2.3	2.2	4.0	4.2	5.4	1.4	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average number of earners in household	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.3
Proportion (%) of households with family composition of the household being:									
Married couple:									
- only	22.2	22.0	24.2	26.4	21.4	32.4	20.4	22.3	23.1
- with dependent children only	30.8	26.3	27.1	22.1	29.2	26.6	25.8	31.3	27.9
- other(b)	10.5	14.4	11.2	12.8	14.1	9.7	5.0	8.7	12.1
Single parent one family household only	6.3	6.1	5.7	8.5	8.4	4.6	9.6	8.5	6.6
Single person household	20.1	21.1	21.0	21.2	14.4	19.1	25.9	16.4	20.0
Other(c)	10.1	10.1	10.9	8.9	12.5	7.5	13.2	12.9	10.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of households in sample	863	637	520	396	388	327	200	206	3537
Estimated total number in population ('000)									
Households	1,741.7	1,272.8	861.8	493.9	492.1	149.6	33.4	80.2	5,125.4
Persons	4,904.7	3,624.6	2,355.7	1,271.4	1,460.4	401.6	82.6	231.7	14,332.7

(a) Household income is the sum of the gross weekly income of all household members. (b) Includes married couple family households where a combination of dependent and non-dependent children are present. (c) Includes married couple and single parent families living in multiple family households.

APPENDIX A

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication presents preliminary results of the 1988-89 Household Expenditure Survey (HES) based on the first six months of the data collected. It will be followed by a series of publications in the first half of next year. These publications will be based on the full twelve months data and provide more detailed results.

2. The 1988-89 *Household Expenditure Survey, Australia, Information Paper (6527.0)*, is being released in conjunction with this publication. It is designed to assist users evaluate and interpret results from this survey. In addition to the Information Paper, a detailed concepts, methodology and procedures publication will complement the release of the final 1988-89 HES output.

3. Caution should be exercised when comparing data from the first six months of the 1988-89 HES with full year estimates derived from previous surveys. Factors that should be taken into account include inflation, differing sample error, and the effect of seasonality on the six months data.

4. The estimates contained in this publication are preliminary and subject to revision.

Scope and coverage

Geographical areas

5. The survey covers both rural and urban areas across all States and Territories.

Dwellings

6. Only private dwellings and caravan parks were included in this survey. Private dwellings were defined as houses, flats, home units, caravans, garages, tents and other structures used as private places of residence at the time of the survey. Hotels, boarding houses, institutions, etc. were treated as 'special dwellings' outside the scope of the survey.

Households

7. Information was collected on a household basis rather than for selected individuals in the population. The household unit was chosen because many items of expenditure such as food, accommodation and household goods and appliances relate to the household as a unit.

8. The following were excluded from the survey :

- foreign diplomatic households and foreign diplomatic staff households.
- foreign defence force staff households.

- visitors staying with the household for less than six weeks after the initial interview.
- households with one or more usual members who could not be interviewed within 14 days of the initial approach; and
- households with one or more usual members, present at the initial interview, who would leave the household and not return before the end of the diary keeping period.

Definitions

Expenditure

9. The 1988-89 HES is based on an acquisitions approach. This means that the expenditure relates to goods and services acquired during the reference period, whether or not those goods were paid for or consumed. For example, goods purchased by bankcard are counted as expenditure at the time they were acquired rather than at the time the bankcard bill was paid.

10. *Expenditure* is net of refunds or expected refunds. For example, payments for health services are net of any refunds received or expected to be received.

11. Information about most types of expenditure was obtained from a diary maintained by individuals selected in the sample. Some infrequent items of expenditure were collected on a 'recall' or last payment basis, the length of the recall period ranging from two years for house purchases to three months for health expenses.

12. For a comprehensive list of items of expenditure collected in the 1988-89 HES, and the composition of a particular broad expenditure group, reference should be made to the HES Commodity Code List contained in Appendix 2 of the 1988-89 *Household Expenditure Survey, Australia, Information Paper (6527.0)*.

Income

13. *Income* is defined as gross weekly income from all sources (before deductions for income tax, superannuation, etc.) at the time of the interview. Income was collected in respect of all household members. The main components of income are :

- current usual wages and salaries.
- income derived from self-employment.
- government direct benefits (including benefits received from an overseas government but excluding educational grants, see below).

- income from investments (including interest, dividends, royalties and rent); and
- other regular income (including educational grants and private and government scholarships received in cash, superannuation, worker's compensation, alimony or maintenance, and any other allowances regularly received).

14. Although most information about income was obtained on a current basis some was obtained for the previous financial year.

15. In general, income is regarded as all receipts which are received regularly and are of a recurring nature. Certain receipts such as lump-sum receipts, windfall gains and withdrawals from savings are not considered to conform to this criterion and are therefore treated as being outside the scope of the survey.

16. The income data collected in the survey are only those types included in the definitions and the survey does not collect the total sources of all 'income'. The survey therefore does not purport to be an income-expenditure balance sheet. The collection of income data in the survey is primarily undertaken to allow households to be classified into groups for expenditure analysis and not for income-expenditure analysis. *It is not expected that income and expenditure will balance either for an individual household or even when averaged over a group of households. The difference between expenditure and income is not necessarily a measure of savings or dis-savings.*

Household Characteristics

17. A household is defined as a group of people who live together (in a single dwelling) as a single unit in the sense that they have common housekeeping arrangements; that is, they have some common provision for food and other essentials of living. A person, or persons, living in the same dwelling but having separate catering arrangements constitute a separate household.

18. The *reference person* in a household, is taken to be that person nominated by the member(s) of the household.

Reliability of the estimates

19. The estimates provided in this publication are subject to two types of error.

Sampling error

20. This is the difference which would be expected between the estimates and the corresponding figure that would have been obtained from a collection based on the whole population, using the same questionnaires and procedures. A measure of the sampling error for a given estimate is provided by the standard error percentage of the estimate. Appendix 1 contains a more comprehensive discussion of sampling errors as well as giving details of the standard error percentages for selected estimates in this publication.

Non-sampling error

21. This type of error can occur whether the estimates are derived from a sample or from a complete collection, and is usually referred to as non-sampling error. Three major sources of non-sampling error are :

- inability to obtain comprehensive data from all households included in the sample. These non-response errors arise because of differences between the characteristics and patterns of expenditure and income between respondent and non-respondent households.
- errors in reporting on the part of both respondents and interviewers. These reporting errors may arise through inappropriate wording of questions, misunderstanding of what data are required, inability or unwillingness to provide accurate information and mistakes in answers to questions; and
- errors arising during processing of the survey data. These processing errors may arise through mistakes in coding and data recording.

22. Non-sampling errors are difficult to measure in any collection. However, every effort was made to minimise these errors. In particular, the effect of the reporting and processing errors described above were minimised by careful questionnaire design, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, asking respondents to refer to records whenever possible and extensive editing and quality control checking at all stages of data processing.

23. The error due to incomplete response was minimised by :

- call-backs to all initial non-respondent households in order to explain the importance of their co-operation to the project; and
- adjustment to the weights (the factors to expand the sample data to obtain population estimates) allocated to the respondent households in order to allow for households with similar characteristics from whom comprehensive data was not obtained.

24. Because of the extended collection period of the survey, changes in money values and changes in the relative prices of goods and services during the period have some implications for the interpretation of the results. The reference periods of data items differed, first, because households were approached at different times over the duration of the survey and, second, because data items were obtained in respect of varying reference periods. (e.g. medical expenses in respect of the previous 3 months, purchase of motor vehicles in the previous 12 months). These factors should be borne in mind in interpretation of results.

Related Publications

25. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request :

1988-89 Household Expenditure Survey, Australia, Information Paper (6527.0) — free publication

1984 Household Expenditure Survey, Australia, (6527.0-6540.0) — priced publications

Consumer Price Index (6401.0) — priced publication

26. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publication, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Additional tabulations

27. Additional tabulations are available on request. Generally a charge is made for providing such tabulations. Inquiries should be made to the officer identified in the Phone Inquiries box or by writing to The Director, Household Income and Expenditure Section, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.

28. Most users would be better served by waiting for the tabulations from the twelve months data, because of possible seasonal effects on six months data and the smaller sample size. Details of the data release schedule for the survey are contained in the *1988-89 Household Expenditure Survey, Australia, Information Paper (6527.0)*.

Symbols used

.. not applicable

29. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals. Published percentages are calculated prior to rounding of the figures and therefore some discrepancy may exist between these percentages and those that could be calculated from the rounded figures.

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APPENDIX 2

SAMPLING ERROR

Estimates derived from the survey were obtained by using a complex estimation procedure. This procedure applies an expansion factor ('weight') to each responding household to enable the collected data to be expanded to obtain estimates for the population. The weights were determined by the household's probability of selection, with an adjustment to account for households from which information was not obtained because of a variety of factors.

2. Since the estimates relate to information obtained from a sample of households they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figure that would have been produced if all households were canvassed. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which measures the extent to which an estimate may vary by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. The standard error can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate, and this is known as the *relative standard error*.

3. The degree of the sample error associated with a sample estimate depends principally on two factors :

- *sample design*. The reliability of the estimates is affected by the size of the sample (the larger the sample, the more reliable the estimates), the geographical distribution and the method of selection; and
- *the variability in the frequency of reporting and in the size of the reporting values*. The smaller the frequency of reporting and the more variable the values reported, the larger the relative standard error.

4. An example of the use of standard errors is as follows. From Table 1 it will be seen that the estimate of average weekly expenditure on 'Food' in Australia is \$94.66 with a relative standard error of 1.3 per cent. The standard error for this estimate is therefore \$1.23. Thus, there are about 2 chances in 3 (or approximately 67 per cent confidence) that the true figure lies in the range \$93.43 to \$95.89 and about 19 chances in 20 (or approximately 95 per cent confidence) that the figure is in the range \$92.20 to \$97.12.

1988-89 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY : RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR (%) : HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE BY HOUSEHOLD DECILE GROUP, AND BY STATES, TERRITORIES AND AUSTRALIA

Broad Expenditure Group(a)	Decile Group (b)	State or Territory								
Description		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
Relative standard error (%)										
Commodity or service										
Current housing costs (selected dwelling)	5.6	3.8	4.3	4.7	5.4	5.4	5.8	7.3	7.2	2.0
Fuel and power	4.5	3.0	3.5	3.8	4.3	4.3	4.7	5.8	5.8	1.6
Food	3.3	2.3	2.6	2.8	3.1	3.1	3.4	4.1	4.1	1.3
Alcoholic beverages	8.5	5.7	6.5	7.1	8.0	8.1	8.8	10.9	10.8	3.0
Tobacco	8.7	5.8	6.7	7.3	8.3	8.4	9.1	11.3	11.1	3.1
Clothing and footwear	8.7	5.8	6.7	7.3	8.3	8.4	9.1	11.3	11.1	3.1
Household furnishings and equipment	11.0	7.4	8.4	9.2	10.4	10.5	11.4	14.2	14.0	3.9
Household services and operation	5.3	3.7	4.2	4.5	5.0	5.1	5.4	6.6	6.5	2.1
Medical care and health expenses	6.3	4.4	5.0	5.4	6.0	6.1	6.5	7.9	7.8	2.5
Transport	7.6	5.1	5.8	6.4	7.2	7.3	7.9	9.8	9.7	2.7
Recreation	7.6	5.1	5.8	6.4	7.2	7.3	7.9	9.8	9.7	2.7
Personal care	7.9	5.3	6.1	6.6	7.5	7.6	8.2	10.2	10.1	2.8
Miscellaneous commodities and services	10.5	7.4	8.3	9.0	10.1	10.2	10.9	13.3	13.1	4.2
Total commodity or service expenditure	3.0	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.8	3.7	1.2
Selected other payments	5.5	3.9	4.4	4.7	5.3	5.3	5.7	6.9	6.9	2.2
Income tax										
Mortgage payments— principle (selected dwelling)	14.9	10.0	11.5	12.6	14.2	14.3	15.5	19.3	19.1	5.3
Other capital housing costs	38.0	27.9	31.0	33.3	36.6	36.8	39.1	46.5	46.0	17.0
Superannuation and life insurance	8.7	5.8	6.7	7.3	8.3	8.4	9.1	11.3	11.1	3.1

Percentages are given in Appendix 2 of the 1988-89 Household Income and Expenditure,

(a) Details of the component expenditure items which comprise broad expenditure groups are given in Appendix 2 of the 1988-89 Household Income and Expenditure, Australia, Information Paper (6527.0). (b) The decile groups in this table are 10 per cent groupings of the estimated population when households are ranked in ascending order according to each household's total gross weekly income. The relative standard error (per cent) is effectively the same for all decile groups.